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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0530

HENRY A. WAXMAN
30TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

February 24, 2006

The Honorable R. James Nicholson
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420-0002

Dear Secretary Nicholson:

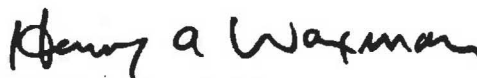
As you consider which capital plans, business plans and reuse plans to further study for the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) process for the West Los Angeles VAMC, I want to share the serious concerns that veterans, community members and elected officials have expressed to my office.

Since the most recent public meeting of the Local Advisory Panel, I have received 2,293 postcards and letters in support of preserving the land at the West LA VA property for the direct benefit of our nation's veterans. The correspondence reiterates the Six Guiding Principles that were unanimously adopted by the Local Advisory Panel during the second public CARES meeting on September 22, 2005. Those principles are (1) to honor the Cranston Act legislation; (2) to honor the spirit of the 1888 deed directing that the land must be maintained in perpetuity for the direct benefit of veterans; (3) to preclude commercial use on the property; (4) to maintain current land use agreements; (5) to declare that there is no excess land at the West LA VA; and (6) to abide by the National Historic Preservation Act. I have attached a copy of the postcard for your review.

This overwhelming outpouring reinforces the significance of the Six Guiding Principles mandated by the Local Advisory Panel. As you continue to evaluate the various options for the West Los Angeles VAMC, I urge you to consider only those options that are consistent with these principles. Doing otherwise would violate the wishes of the family that generously donated the property and veterans who are treated and served by this facility.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

HAW:lp